

CAMP OCONTO

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A
SUMMER
CAMP
FOR GIRLS
FROM EIGHT
TO SEVENTEEN
YEARS OF AGE
SITUATED NEAR
SHARBOT LAKE
ONTARIO

CAMP OCONTO

FOUNDED 1925

ACCREDITED MEMBER
ONTARIO CAMPING ASSOCIATION

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MAIN WATERFRONT

CO-DIRECTORS

Lisa Labbett Wilson
Bruce R. Wilson
June Kennedy Labbett
E. Clifford Labbett

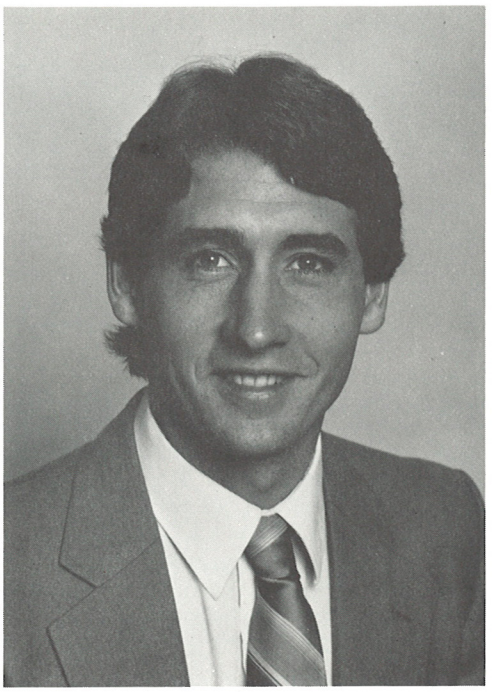
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WELCOME GATE



LISA LABBETT WILSON



BRUCE WILSON

CAMP OCONTO

Camping, today, has come to be recognized as a vital part of the educational programme. In no other situation can a child of any age learn so eagerly; in no other situation will she so readily develop initiative, self reliance, good sportsmanship, and the ability to get along with others.

Camp provides an opportunity for girls to acquire a variety of skills. Under careful supervision and in a programme suited to each child's needs, Camp Oconto endeavors to give each camper a safe and happy experience. Here she makes life-long friends who, with her, come to appreciate the fun of learning outdoor skills. The safety of each child stands first and foremost in minds of trained counsellors.

In the presentation of such an experience to girls from age seven to sixteen, the Directors give careful thought to each phase of a camper's life during her stay at Oconto. This responsibility is shared jointly by Lisa and Bruce Wilson. Lisa directing the camp; working closely with the staff and campers on a personal basis, Bruce devoting his time to maintenance, and business administration.

After working with Mr. and Mrs. Labbett in 1981 as Assistant Directors and the following year as Co-Directors, Lisa and Bruce Wilson are ready to assume the role of Directors. Having grown up at Oconto, Lisa is well prepared and trained to guide campers and staff, and to direct the various activities and programmes at camp. Lisa has been a camper, counsellor in training, counsellor, activity head and section head at Oconto.

To broaden her experience, Lisa has been a staff member at other Ontario camps, taught various University groups, provided leadership at several outdoor skill camps and was a delegate at the Colorado Outward Bound School. Lisa serves on various committees for the Ontario Camping Association, and she is actively involved with several community organizations. Lisa graduated from the University of Waterloo with a degree in Geography.

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Bruce Wilson joined the Oconto staff in 1980 as the assistant in charge of administration, maintenance and food service. A native of Muskoka, Bruce spent his past summers actively involved with the organization and maintenance of various recreational facilities in the area. Bruce is a graduate of the University of Waterloo with a degree in Economic Geography.

Oconto was founded in 1925 by Miss Ferna Graham Halliday, who retired from active Directorship in 1949. Mr. and Mrs. C. Labbett have since owned and Directed the camp. The camp Directorship is now passing into the third generation - Lisa Labbett Wilson and her husband Bruce. June and Cliff Labbett, now camp advisors, will continue to live at camp during the summer, to provide assistance and guidance. Mrs. Labbett is very active on Ontario Camping Association and Society of Camp Directors' committees and is a Board Member of the Trafalgar Castle School, Whitby, Ontario. Mr. Labbett is a Past President of both the Ontario and Canadian Associations and is still active on Camping Association committees, and in the Society of Camp Directors.

Located on Eagle Lake, approximately ten kilometers south of Sharbot Lake, Camp Oconto is an ideal site for childrens' camping. It is a beautiful area of rolling hills in the Land O' Lakes tourist region. Over 100 acres of sandy, well drained property, and a mile of shoreline provide ample opportunity for all land and water activities. The tents and cabins where the campers live circle the main bay so that no



JUNE LABBETT



CLIFF LABBETT

one is very far from the water. Large shade trees give protection from the sun yet the property is open enough that dampness following rain is never a problem.

Camp farmland on nearby Crow Lake and camp Islands on Eagle Lake provide excellent sites for picnics, overnights and canoe trips.

The camp is situated 60 kilometers north of Kingston, Ontario, and a kilometer off Highway No. 38. It is easily reached by either No. 7 Highway to Sharbot Lake Junction, then south approximatley 10 kilometers on Highway No. 38 to the camp road. Or Highway No. 401 to Kingston and north on Highway No. 38 to 3 kilometers north of Tichborne. Chartered buses carry the campers to and from camp in chaperoned groups.



CAMP COUNSELLORS

CAMP PERSONNEL

Since a counsellor can make camping a happy experience for each child, Oconto gives a great deal of time and thought to the selection of staff. Counsellors are chosen for their leadership qualities, maturity, natural love of children, and their experience with the various camp activities. Most staff members are University students or graduates and some are school teachers, and so bring a variety of experiences to contribute to the camp programme.

For one week before camp opens, an In-Camp training programme for all staff members acquaints them with camp routines, traditions and innovations. It is a period of lectures, discussions, actual programme participation and the occasional social hour when new members are helped to feel at home with those who have been on the staff before.

Oconto is divided into six sections with staff especially interested and experienced in each particular age group. Each section is equipped with a lodge including a fire place, piano and a small library.

The Counsellor in Training programme is a two year programme for girls sixteen and seventeen years old. In the first year of the programme, each sixteen year old girl attends camp for one month. In this four week session she concentrates on improving the skills which she wishes to teach as a counsellor. During this time she is working with the campers under the supervision of a counsellor.

In the second year, each seventeen year old girl attends camp for eight weeks. Over these two months her time is spent learning how to demonstrate and teach her individual activites. Under the supervision of a senior staff member, she becomes responsible for a number of campers; an integral part of her summer leadership training.

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MAIN SWIM AREAS

SWIMMING

Swimming and Life Saving instruction are important for the welfare of everyone. Swimming instruction is part of the daily routine for Oconto campers. Careful, patient instructors are on duty at every dock to guard the safety of swimmers at all times. The "Buddy System" and other measures of control are used.

The programme covers Royal Life Saving Society Awards, Red Cross Water Safety, Synchronized Swimming and Diving. Oconto has a high record of achievement in tests passed in these courses. Training, knowledge and skill create confidence and in this way campers obtain maximum enjoyment from all water activities.





CANOEING, SAILING and WINDSURFING

With the emphasis on safety, Oconto strives to give campers confidence in the skill of handling watercraft of all kinds. Sailing instruction is in the hands of counsellors competent in this field, who have at their disposal the popular albacore and snapper. The sailing instruction programme is based on the Canadian Yachting Association Standards. Recreational sailing with supervision, gives many hours of fun and enjoyment. Canoes, rowboats, and kayaks, available any time there is a counsellor on duty at the dock, offer campers every opportunity to practise their skills, try something new, or just have fun. Counsellors strive to make every camper proficient enough to handle an emergency if necessary, as well as to enjoy water sports to the full.

Another new and popular sport at Oconto is windsurfing... a slight breeze on the "Learner Board" allows the beginner to become a confident windsurfer.



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TRIPPING and BUSHCRAFT

Deep in the hearts of most children is the dream of life in the out-of-doors, expeditions which include trips by canoe, portages, food cooked in the open, plus the close campanionship of the campfire circle. Tripping, then, becomes a very important part of life at Oconto, but it can only come as a reward for learning those very necessary skills of swimming, paddling and bushcraft.

When campers have passed the required tests, trips are arranged and chaperoned by special tripping counsellors. Campers help to plan menus, select their route from topographical maps; learn to choose a campsite, erect shelters, care for themselves and their equipment, for any period from one to seven days.

The natural surroundings of camp provide many opportunities to learn something of swamps, river beds, rocks, fields, forests and caves. We endeavor to develop the natural curiosity of a camper when confronted by something new to her. For those interested, backpacking trips are offered durations of one to three days. The riding trips go for a half day on a number of trails, in and around camp. Sailing trips take up to one day and travel amongst the islands in Eagle Lake.





BUSH CRAFT INSTRUCTION



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